

The Fifth Session
of the Intergovernmental Meeting
on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network
in East Asia
27-28 November 2003, Pattaya, Thailand

REPORT OF THE SESSION
(Final)

Introduction

1. The Intergovernmental Meeting (IG) on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) held its Fifth Session in Pattaya, Thailand on 27-28 November 2003.
2. Representatives of Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam participated in the Session. A representative from Myanmar and some representatives from Pollution Control Department of Thailand attended as observers. Experts of the international organizations namely: Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), United Nations University/Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU/IAS), United Nations Environmental Programme, Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP, RRC.AP), as well as the Chairperson of the Third Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee of EANET attended the Session. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

Opening of the Meeting (agenda item 1)

3. The meeting was opened by Ms. Leong Chow Peng, Malaysia, the Chair of the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting. Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Director of UNEP RRC.AP delivered the opening address on behalf of the Secretariat. In his opening remarks, Mr. Shrestha highlighted some important meetings such as the Global Ministerial Meeting to be held in March 2004 in the Republic of Korea, and overviewed the regional situation and environmental problems. He also pointed out some important challenges of EANET, such as (i) importance of making EANET more policy relevant; (ii) need for sustainable financing of EANET; and (iii) need for close relationship with other relevant programmes such as Clean Air Initiatives for Asia (CAI-Asia), Dust and Sandstorm (DSS), Atmospheric Brown Cloud (ABC), Haze in Southeast Asia. He finally informed that the EANET Secretariat has been communicating with various agencies such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Bank for their possible financial support to EANET.

Election of Officers (agenda item 2)

4. Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana from Thailand was elected as Chairperson, Ms. Liana Bratasida from Indonesia as Vice-Chairperson, and Mr. Shinichi Arai from Japan as Rapporteur.

Adoption of the Agenda (agenda item 3)

5. The Session adopted the agenda as proposed by the Secretariat (EANET/IG 5/3/1).

Consideration of the Outcomes of SAC3 (agenda item 4)

6. Dr. Vu Van Tuan, Chairperson of the Third Session of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC3) presented the outcomes of SAC3 held from 24 to 26 November 2003 in Pattaya, Thailand. This presentation was supplemented by Dr. Gromov particularly highlighting the recommendation of SAC3 on the Detailed Mechanism of Article 4 of the Procedures on Data and Information Disclosure for EANET (EANET/SAC 3/13 Annex 2).
7. While many countries supported the recommendations, the following issues were raised:
 - It is important to allow the participating countries to make further correction of data, if necessary at a later stage after further verification.
 - The purpose of the data used should be informed at the time of data request.
 - Some feedback mechanism should be developed to obtain feedback from the data user.
8. A question was raised on how to deal with the commercial use of data obtained from EANET. UNEP and UN/ECE introduced their experiences in this regard.
9. The Fifth Session of IG endorsed the SAC3 Report and in particular the recommendation of SAC3 in principle including the Detailed Mechanism of Article 4 of the Procedures on Data and Information Disclosure for EANET, and requested SAC, Network Center (NC) and/or the Secretariat to further work out the following points and communicate with the participating countries through the National Focal Points (NFPs):
 - to allow further correction of the data at a later stage after further verification by countries, if necessary;
 - to obtain information on the purpose of data use; and
 - to develop mechanism to obtain feedback from the data users.

Review of the progress of EANET after SAC2 and IG4 and the financial report in 2002 (agenda item 5)

10. The Secretariat and NC presented the Report on the Progress of EANET since IG4 and the Financial Report in 2002 (EANET/IG 5/5) and the Development of E-learning Program on Acid Deposition Problems for Environmental Education.
11. Many countries expressed their appreciation to Japan and China for their contributions and welcomed the start of EANET activities in the newly participating countries, Cambodia and Lao PDR. Participating countries also welcomed NC's initiative on E-learning program and expressed their expectations to receive copies of the CD in the near future.
12. Major discussions on this topic included:
 - It may be more effective to promote public awareness if specific target groups are clearly identified each year and to make sure of participation of most relevant people.
 - Realistic budget of the Secretariat should be further reviewed, based on the experience in 2002 and thereafter.
 - It was pointed out that public participation in EANET activities may also be considered.
 - Activities should be further undertaken to get attention of high level policy makers. In this connection, it was suggested that various high-level conferences such as Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP/UNFCCC), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), ASEAN+3 Ministerial Meeting (AMME) may be used to disseminate information on EANET activities.
13. Lao PDR solicited IG to consider providing special privilege to newly participating countries to allow them to send 2 trainees to EANET training activities for 3 years period. Lao PDR also expressed willingness to join the awareness activities by NC.
14. The Secretariat and NC were requested to develop the following:
 - a paper to disseminate major outcomes of EANET activities;
 - a questionnaire to determine the level of public awareness in the participating countries;
 - a brief information paper on EANET activities to be provided and used by countries at important meetings at global, regional, sub-regional and national levels; and
 - a paper to brief high level policy makers.
15. NC and the Secretariat were requested to consider if the EANET website could be separated from ADORC website with links from the present one.

Consideration on Further Financial Arrangement for EANET (agenda item 6)

16. The Secretariat presented the Report on Further Financial Arrangement for EANET (EANET/IG 5/6), which was followed by the presentation by NC on the Memorandum on More Efficient and Transparent Activities of the Network Center (EANET/IG 5/6 Annex 3)
17. The issue on the options for burden sharing and the modality of the consensus were discussed at first. After some clarifications, all countries agreed to use Option 1 for the burden sharing with some possible modifications, and the decision of the Intergovernmental Meeting as the modality of the consensus.
18. Based on this consensus, the draft decision on further financial arrangement for EANET (EANET/IG 5/6 Annex 5) was carefully reviewed. Discussions were held on the following issues and necessary modifications were proposed and agreed on:
 - It was clarified that the present financial arrangement on a voluntary basis will continue up to 2004 and new arrangement will start from 2005;
 - To avoid creating confusion on the voluntary nature of the contributions, it was agreed to delete the attached indicative list on burden sharing;
 - Taking into account the importance of consideration on actual expenditure figures in the regular phase, it was agreed to clearly state in the decision that the burden sharing figures should be decided taking into account the actual expenditure figures;
 - The language was reformulated to provide wider flexibility at the present time and allow for a review of the financial arrangement after three years;
 - It was also clarified that the latest UN assessment scale available at the decision of burden sharing figures will be applied.
 - It was suggested not to indicate the distinction between cash and in-kind contributions, and modifications was made to reflect this comment.
 - It was clarified that the grace period for the newly participating counties will start from 2005 for three years until 2007.
 - Taking into account the concern of several countries on the difficulty of financial contributions without an official legal document, one new preamble paragraph and one new operational paragraph (paragraph 6) were added to address the concerns.
19. With the proposed modifications on the draft decision, all the participating countries reached consensus on the Decision on the Further Financial Arrangement for EANET, attached as Annex 2 of this Report and endorsed the Memorandum on More Efficient and Transparent Activities of the Network Center (EANET/IG 5/6 Annex 3). The Working Group on Further Financial Arrangement for EANET completed its work and was dissolved.

Consideration of Future Development of EANET (agenda item 7)

20. The Secretariat presented the document on Future Development of EANET (EANET/IG 5/7).
21. Participating countries supported the proposal to establish a new Working Group. Major discussions on this topic included:
 - TOR of the new WG should include review of the performance of the Secretariat and NC;
 - TOR should have timetable of the WG activities;
 - Proposed items for TOR are broad. Concerns were expressed if the WG has sufficient expertise and capacity to deal with broad topics. It was suggested to consider a possibility of sub-groups;
 - Relationship of the new WG with SAC and its activities should be carefully considered. Institutional link with SAC should be worked out
 - Some countries pointed out the importance to put focus on monitoring activities, including modeling and information sharing, while some others emphasized the importance to provide policy relevant information required to policy making
 - Effort should be continued and further strengthened to explore support by relevant international organizations, especially ADB and the World Bank
 - Effort should be strengthened to further disseminate EANET activities at important meetings such as ASEAN+3 and COP9/UNFCCC
 - Not only draft TOR but also work plan of WG should be discussed and worked out at the First Session of the WG
22. It was concluded that:
 - All the participating countries agreed to establish a new WG.
 - Taking into account the views and comments expressed at IG5, the Secretariat should prepare a preliminary TOR which could be sent to the NFPs for their views and comments.
 - Taking fully into account the inputs from the participating countries, WG should work out a draft TOR as well as a draft work plan for approval by IG6.

Consideration of Work Program and Budget in 2004 (agenda item 8)

23. The Secretariat and NC made a presentation on the Draft Work Program and Budget in 2004 (EANET/IG 5/8).

24. Major comments on this topic included the following:
- It was suggested to include a list of more concrete actions in the future Work Program and Budget which can be presented to high level policy makers.
 - The new Working Group on Future Development of EANET may consider the extent of details required to be reported in the Work Program and Budget.
 - The relationship between the NC activities and other relevant activities such as International Organization for Standardization (ISO) was clarified.
25. In order to improve transparency and efficiency, the participating countries agreed that working procedures be established and a detailed budget be presented according to the activities. Those documents will be prepared by the Secretariat and distributed to the participating countries for consideration and discussion in WG.
26. The session adopted the Work Program and Budget in 2004 for EANET subject to the modification described below. The Session noted that SAC3 had proposed the preparation of periodic reports on the state of acid deposition in East Asia as a new activity of SAC. The Session requested the Secretariat and NC to include this activity in the work program for 2004 within the proposed budget.
27. The Participating countries also expressed their appreciation to the Government of Japan for its willingness to continue providing financial support in 2004.

Other Issues (agenda item 9)

28. The Secretariat informed IG of the necessity to nominate a senior representative to participate in the Policy Advisory Committee of UNEP RRC.AP. After some clarifications, IG nominated, by consensus, Dr. Supat Wangwongwatana, Thailand, as the senior representative.
29. As for hosting of the next SAC/IG Meetings, Cambodia expressed its preliminary willingness to host these meetings in 2004.
30. The representative of UNECE indicated CLRTAP welcomed continued collaboration with EANET. He noted the Convention would welcome participation of EANET experts, the Secretariat and NC at its meetings.

31. The Secretariat informed the Session of the progress of its communication with ADB and correspondence regarding technical assistance to EANET. Thailand informed the Session that JICA has approved a five-year third country training program based in Thailand on acid deposition monitoring initially and on other relevant activities later. In terms of getting support from international organizations, the Secretariat was requested to prepare an initial concept paper on technical assistance from international organizations such as ADB and GEF as a first step, taking into consideration existing initiatives, and then get input of participating countries to finalize the proposal to submit to relevant organizations.

Consideration and adoption of the Report of the Session (agenda item 10)

32. The Session adopted this Report with modifications as agreed on.

Closing of the Session

33. The Session was officially closed.

Annex 1

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Annex 2

DECISION 1/IG. 5

FURTHER FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT FOR EANET

Recognizing the importance of long-term, secured financial arrangement for the EANET activities,

Recalling the agreements reached at the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting through Decisions 1 to 6 for the regular phase of EANET,

Taking into account the discussions at the sessions of the Intergovernmental Meeting as well as the Working Group on Further Financial Arrangement for EANET,

Considering that in some countries the negotiations on the new financial arrangement with national financial bodies require legal status of official international document,

The Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET), on 27-28 November 2003 in Pattaya, Thailand,

1. Confirms the principles that were agreed on at the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting should remain the basic policy of the EANET activities, at least in the initial stage of the regular phase.
2. Takes note that the following three principles for further financial arrangements.
 - (i) Financial contribution should be on a voluntary basis, at least for the initial stage of the regular phase. In other words, a burden sharing principle is not mandatory unless otherwise decided.
 - (ii) Step-wise approach should be taken for financial contribution by the participating countries.
 - (iii) Effort should also be continued to further improve transparency and efficiency of the Network.

3. Decides that the participating countries of EANET should make effort, on a voluntary basis, to make financial contributions to NC and the Secretariat budget up to 2004. Taking into account the latest actual expenditure figures, countries will then make effort on a voluntary basis to contribute to the budget to be directly spent by the Secretariat using fully the latest UN assessment scale-based burden sharing as the first step. After three years, the performance and transparency of the Network should be reviewed to explore the possibility of strengthening and extending the burden sharing. The possibility of introducing minimum contribution amount from the participating countries should also be explored.
4. Also decides the following items.
 - (i) The forms of contribution, in-kind or in cash, may be chosen by the participating countries, taking into account the needs and efficiency of the EANET activities.
 - (ii) A newly participating country should be able to enjoy three-years grace period for burden sharing.
 - (iii) Although a burden sharing principle is a desirable target in the future, it may not be possible to apply immediately. Transitional measures can be applied to some countries to reduce their immediate burden, such as bearing their own travelling expenses to participate in the EANET meetings.
5. Applies the new financial arrangement in paragraph 3 and 4 above from 2005 budget.
6. Decides to review the possibility of developing an international agreement to provide a sound basis for financial contribution.